

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO 85.**

2 (By Delegates M. Poling, Paxton, Barill, D. Campbell, Craig,
3 Crosier, Ennis, Lawrence, Moye, Pethtel, Perry, Rodighiero,
4 Shaver, Smith, Walker, Duke, Sumner, Armstead, Ellington,
5 Gearheart, Pasdon, Rowan, Savilla and Sigler)
6

7 [Originating in the Committee on Education.]

8 (February 17, 2011)

9
10 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to
11 conduct a study on effective methods of attracting to and
12 retaining in West Virginia additional practicing health care
13 professionals.

14 WHEREAS, There is a critical need for additional practicing
15 health care professionals in West Virginia; and

16 WHEREAS, For nearly twenty years the state and medical
17 schools have delivered health sciences programs and provided
18 training in rural areas of the state in order to recruit more
19 graduates to those areas; and

20 WHEREAS, During this time period the percentage of physician
21 graduates in primary care practice in rural areas of the state
22 has remained essentially unchanged; and

23 WHEREAS, For rural and under-served areas of the state, the
24 most important healthcare provider consideration is physicians
25 serving in family practice; and

26 WHEREAS, Where family practitioners locate has a strong

1 impact on where other health care professionals, such as nurse
2 practitioners and physician assistants, locate; and

3 WHEREAS, A key component of the rural healthcare system in
4 West Virginia are federally funded community health care centers;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Having a strong healthcare system serves not only to
7 improve the overall health and quality of life for citizens, but
8 also is critical to the economic development of this state; and

9 WHEREAS, In order to develop and maintain a strong healthcare
10 system serving all areas of the state, the state must implement
11 a strategy for attracting to and retaining in West Virginia
12 additional practicing health care professionals; therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

14 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
15 requested to study effective methods of attracting to and
16 retaining in West Virginia additional practicing health care
17 professionals; and, be it

18 *Further Resolved,* That the said Joint Committee on
19 Government and Finance is requested to report to the regular
20 session of the Legislature, 2012, on its findings, conclusions
21 and recommendations, together with drafts of any legislation
22 necessary to effectuate its recommendations; and, be it

23 *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct
24 this study, to prepare a report and draft necessary legislation

1 are requested to be paid from legislative appropriations to the
2 Joint Committee on Government and Finance.